



SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES 2009 OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Police Officer Sean A. Slusser, who is assigned to the Patrol Division of the Salem Police Department, has been selected by his peers as “Officer of the Year” for 2009 after he pulled a driver out of a car to safety during a traffic accident.

“Anytime you get an award it is quite an honor, but when you work with outstanding officers who think enough of you to not only nominate you, but vote for you, that’s what really makes me extremely proud and honored,” says Officer Slusser.

On December 9, 2009, Slusser was dispatched to a traffic accident that involved a business located at the intersection of West Main and 4th Streets. After arriving at the scene of the accident, he found that a vehicle had not only struck the building, but that it had crashed through the wall and was now inside the establishment.

Without hesitation, Officer Slusser pulled the driver out of the car to safety even though electrical lines and leaking water pipes that had been damaged in the crash were exposed overhead. The driver of the vehicle was transported to the hospital where he was later released.

“It’s definitely a job where you have to make decisions quickly and trust in all of the training you’ve been through,” says Slusser.

“I am extremely proud of Sean for not only assessing the accident scene so quickly, but also for processing the situation, acting so instinctively and pulling the motorist to safety,” says Salem Police Chief Jeff Dudley. “The situation inside the business was uncertain at best, and Sean’s quick actions kept it from being much worse.”

Slusser, who is 28-years-old, says he wanted to be a policeman ever since he was a young boy growing up in Roanoke County, and after graduating from Northside High School he began his career with the Roanoke City Sheriff's Office. After four years of working inside the jail, he joined the Salem Police Department in 2007 as a Patrol Officer. This past year he also recorded the most DUI arrests for the Salem PD.

"When I decided to come out onto the road, I knew the Salem Police department was where I wanted to be," he says. "I have loved being here ever since I arrived largely because there are great citizens here. The citizens of Salem still respect officers and appreciate the police presence in their city."

Sean and his wife, Carrie, reside in Vinton. He also has two daughters, Alexis and Kaileih.

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